

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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LABORATORY REIMBURSEMENT

CONTENTS

- **Laboratory Reimbursement Policy for Outpatient Hospitals**

MO HealthNet enrolled hospitals may bill for outpatient laboratory services if the services are performed:

- in their hospital's laboratory
- by an independent laboratory enrolled as a MO HealthNet provider under an arrangement which documents that the hospital is responsible for billing the services provided by the independent laboratory.
- by an independent laboratory not enrolled as a MO HealthNet provider under an arrangement which documents that the hospital is responsible for billing the services provided by the independent laboratory.

Providers need to keep a copy of this documentation as well as the appropriate CLIA certification on file and be able to provide upon request.

Additionally, MO HealthNet enrolled independent laboratories also have the choice to bill for outpatient laboratory services. **However**, laboratory services that are billed by the hospital cannot be billed by the independent laboratory and vice versa. This is considered duplicate billing and claims are subject to recoupment.

Please note that facility charges cannot be billed if laboratory services are the only services provided during a visit.

Clinical diagnostic laboratory services billed by the hospital are paid from the Outpatient Lab Fee Schedule rather than a percentage of the billed charge in order to comply with the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 (DEFRA). For reporting purposes, services reimbursed on a fee schedule basis shall *not* be included as allowable MO HealthNet costs in cost settlement.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via email.

The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Managed Care Services

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896